

10. (Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for updating an electronic catalog, the program including instructions for causing a processor to: identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body; initiate instructions for reading the elements of the electronic catalog to determine whether information therein is current; and update the elements of the electronic catalog with current information.

14. (Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for annotation of an electronic catalog, the program including instructions for causing a processor to: identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body; generate at least one electronic catalog source document [according to the document type definition] from the elements; generate at least one compound document having elements similar to that of the electronic catalog; enclose the electronic catalog source document within the compound document; and provide an annotation section referring to entries in the electronic catalog source document.

15. (Amended) A computer program of claim 14, further including instructions for causing a processor to: generate a digital signature for verification of the compound document, wherein verification of the compound document does not prevent verification of the authenticity of the electronic catalog source document.

16. (Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for assisting purchases and sales of a plurality of items according to a plurality of transaction types, the program including instructions for causing a processor to: identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body; and generate a sales-model tag in the header, for specifying the type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.

19. (Amended) A computer storage medium containing a computer program having means for identifying elements of an electronic catalog document for subsequent distribution of the elements, comprising:

means for identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;

means for determining a location in the storage medium for storing each of the elements of the electronic catalog;

means for storing each of the elements in the respective location in the storage medium;

and means for retrieving each of the elements for the respective location for subsequent distribution.

20. (Amended) A computer-based method of providing an electronic catalog, comprising:

providing a header section to identify a source of an electronic catalog;

providing a body section to permit object entries in the electronic catalog;

providing a footer section including information for verifying content of the header and body sections; and

formatting the sections so that they can be presented as an electronic catalog to a user for action.

21. (Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

distributing elements of an electronic catalog document to a plurality of servers.

34. (Amended) A computer-based method for verifying the authenticity of an electronic catalog, comprising:

identifying elements of an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body;

locating within the footer of the electronic catalog document an electronic signature; and

analyzing the signature to verify the authenticity of the electronic catalog document.

35. (Amended) A computer-based method for updating an electronic catalog, comprising:

identifying elements of an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body;  
reading the elements of the electronic catalog to determine whether information therein is current; and  
updating the electronic catalog document with current information.

39. (Amended) A computer-based method for annotation of an electronic catalog, comprising:

identifying elements of an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body;

generating at least one electronic catalog source document from the elements; and

generate at least one compound document having elements similar to that of the electronic catalog;

enclosing the electronic catalog source document within the compound document; and

providing an annotation section referring to entries in the electronic catalog source document.

40. (Amended) A computer-based method of claim 39, comprising:

providing a digital signature for verification of the compound document, wherein verification of the compound document does not prevent verification of the authenticity of the electronic catalog source document.

41. (Amended) A computer-based method for assisting purchases and sales of a plurality of items according to a plurality of transaction types, comprising:

identifying elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;  
and

providing a sales-model tag in the header, for specifying the type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.

44. (Amended) A computer-based method of storing electronic documents, comprising:  
identifying elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;